

## **DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project Name: General Waste Discharge Requirements for In-Situ Groundwater Remediation at Petroleum Hydrocarbon Fuel and/or Volatile Organic Impacted Sites Located in the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

Tentative Order Number: R9-2003-0111, R9-2003-0112

### **This Document is Considered Draft Until it is Adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region**

This Negative Declaration is comprised of this form along with the Environmental Initial Study that includes the Initial Study Form.

1. California Environmental Quality Act Negative Declaration Findings:

This Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgement and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period, and; on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

2. Required Mitigation Measures:

Refer to the attached Environmental Initial Study for the rationale for requiring the following measures:

None.

3. Critical Project Design Elements That Must Become Conditions of Approval:

The following project design elements were either proposed in the project application or the result of compliance with specific environmental laws and regulations and were essential in reaching the conclusions within the attached Environmental Initial Study.

While the following are not technically mitigation measures, their implementation must be assured to avoid potentially significant environmental effects.

None.

**ADOPTION STATEMENT:** This Negative Declaration was adopted and above California Environmental Quality Act findings made by the:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

On June 11, 2003

John H. Robertus  
Executive Officer  
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

**Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region**  
California Environmental Quality Act  
INITIAL STUDY

Type of Project: Groundwater Remediation

Environmental Checklist

**BACKGROUND**

1. **Name of Applicant:** Any party responsible for petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compound impacted groundwater sites who apply to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, for coverage under the proposed General Water Discharge Requirements.
2. **Address and phone number of applicant:** Various
3. **Date:** March 27, 2002
4. **Agency requiring checklist:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region
5. **Name of proposal, if applicable:** Adoption of General Waste Discharge Requirements for in-situ groundwater remediation at petroleum hydrocarbon fuel and/or volatile organic compound impacted sites.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

*Answer the following questions by placing a check mark in the appropriate space. Consider all phases of the proposed project, including planning, implementation, all operation phases, and both primary and direct and secondary or indirect environmental consequences.*

- |   | <u>YES</u> | <u>MAYBE</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|------------|--------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Earth. Will the proposal result in:</b>   |            |              |           |
| a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?   |            |              | NO        |
| b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcoming of the soil?  |            |              | NO        |
| c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?  |            |              | NO        |
| d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?   |            |              | NO        |
| e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?   |            |              | NO        |
| f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake? |            |              | NO        |
| g. Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?  |            |              | NO        |
| <b>2. Air. Will the proposal result in:</b>   |            |              |           |
| a. Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?   |            |              | NO        |
| b. The creation of objectionable odors?   |            |              | NO        |
| c. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?   |            |              | NO        |
| <b>3. Water. Will the proposal result in:</b>   |            |              |           |
| a. Changes in currents, or the course of direction or water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?  |            |              | NO        |
| b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?  |            |              | NO        |
| c. Alterations to the course of flow of flood waters?   |            |              | NO        |
| d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?   |            |              | NO        |

YES MAYBE NO

- e. Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity? NO
- f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? MAYBE
- g. Change in the quantity or quality of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? MAYBE
- h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? NO
- i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? NO

**4. Plant Life.** *Will the proposal result in:*

- a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, microflora and aquatic plants)? NO
- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? NO
- c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or result in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? NO
- d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? NO

**5. Animal Life.** *Will the proposal result in:*

- a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds; land animals, including reptiles; fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects or microfauna)? NO
- b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? NO
- c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? NO
- d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? NO

**6. Noise.** *Will the proposal result in:*

- a. Increases in existing noise levels? NO
- b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? NO

**7. Light and Glare.** *Will the proposal:*

- a. Produce new light and glare? NO

**8. Land Use.** *Will the proposal result in:*

- a. Substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? NO

**9. Natural Resources.** *Will the proposal result in:*

- a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? NO
- b. Substantial depletion of any nonrenewable natural resource? NO

**10. Risk of Upset.** *Will the proposal involve:*

- a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions? NO
- b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan? NO

**11. Population.** *Will the proposal:*

- a. Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? NO

YES MAYBE NO

**12. Housing.** *Will the proposal:*

- a. Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? NO

- 13. Transportation/Circulation.** *Will the proposal result in:*
- a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement? NO
  - b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking? NO
  - c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems? NO
  - d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? NO
  - e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic? NO
  - f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians? NO
- 14. Public Service.** *Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:*
- a. Fire protection? NO
  - b. Police protection? NO
  - c. Schools? NO
  - d. Parks or other recreational facilities? NO
  - e. Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? NO
  - f. Other governmental services? NO
- 15. Energy.** *Will the proposal result in:*
- a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? NO
  - b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy? NO
- 16. Utilities and Service Systems.** *Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities?*
- a. Power or natural gas? NO
  - b. Communications systems? NO
  - c. Water? NO
  - d. Sewer or septic tanks? NO
  - e. Storm water drainage? NO
  - f. Solid waste and disposal? NO
- 17. Human Health.** *Will the proposal result in:*
- a. Creation of any real or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? NO
  - b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards? NO
- 18. Aesthetic.** *Will the proposal result in:*
- a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public? NO
  - b. The creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view? NO
- 19. Recreation.** *Will the proposal result in:*
- a. Impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities? NO
- 20. Cultural Resources.** *Will the proposal:*
- a. Result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site? NO
  - b. Result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? NO
  - c. Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? NO
  - d. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? NO
- 21. Public Opinion.** YES MAYBE NO
- A. Is there, or is there anticipated to be, a substantial body of opinion that the

proposed project may have an adverse effect on environment?

NO

**22. Authorization by Other Public Agencies.**

A. Will this project require certification, authorization, or issuance of a permit by any other local, state or federal agency? (A "YES" or "MAYBE" answer will require consultation with the appropriate agency.)

NO

**23. City Plans and Goals, etc.**

A. Is the project incompatible with existing zoning, plans and goals that have been adopted by the City for the area in which the project is located?

NO

**24. Mandatory Findings of Significance.**

a) **Potential to degrade:** Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

NO

b) **Short-term:** Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)

NO

c) **Cumulative:** Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)

NO

d) **Substantial adverse:** Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

NO

**EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Expand on all "YES" and "MAYBE" answers given to the preceding questions in regard to environmental impacts. The evaluation shall consider whether the environmental impact indicated will have a substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the activity. In addition, the evaluation should discuss environmental effects in proportion to their severity and probability of occurrence. (Use additional pages if necessary.)

**3f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water**

Depending on the type of groundwater treatment used the groundwater flow may be altered. However, the alteration of the direction of groundwater flow will be minor and limited to the area surrounding the injection and recovery well(s) locations.

**3g. Change in the quantity or quality of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations.**

The use and application of chemical, biological and physical treatment processes could cause a change in groundwater quality. However, any potential adverse water quality impacts that may result will be localized, of short-term duration, and will not impact any existing or prospective uses of groundwater. Groundwater quality will be monitored before addition of any materials, during treatment, and after treatment is completed to verify no

long-term adverse impact to water quality. If the monitoring program indicates that the treatment/injection process may cause an environmental effect, the process will be stopped.

**MITIGATING MEASURES, IF ANY, INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT TO AVOID POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS.**

On the basis of Sections II and III, list and discuss any potentially significant environmental effects identified and those mitigation measures, which have been added to the project to mitigate these to insignificant levels. Indicate any significant effects, which cannot be mitigated to insignificant levels. (Use additional pages as necessary.)

None.

**DETERMINATION**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that additional information as noted on the attached sheet is required to complete this Initial Study.

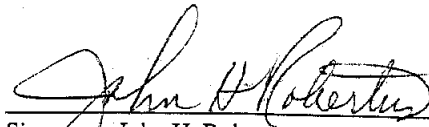
☒ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment; a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.**

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described above have been added to the project. Mitigation measures will be incorporated into the General Waste Discharge Requirements.

☐ **IMPACT REPORT** is required. Those effects which may not be mitigated to insignificant levels I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS** are described above and the study of these shall be emphasized in the Environmental Impact Report.

☐ I find that the proposed project (activity) is within the scope of the project (Redevelopment Plan) covered by the Program EIR; that the Program EIR adequately describes the proposed project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act; that the environmental effects of the proposed project were covered in the program EIR; and, that no new environmental document is required.

DATE: March 28, 2002

  
Signature: John H. Robertus  
Executive Officer

METHOD AND DATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to Section 21092 of the State CEQA Guidelines, notice shall be given by at least one of the following procedures:

  X   Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed projects in accordance with Section 6061 of the Government Code.

           Posting of notice on and off site in the area where the project is to be located.

           Direct mailing to owners of property contiguous to the project.

Additional Notification provided:

           Posting of notice at City Hall.

           Filing and Posting of notice